

Code of Environmental Conduct

For Natural Sensitive Areas

Please respect and appreciate the fragile nature of these designated areas. Thoughtlessness and a lack of understanding can cause untold damage and spoil the areas for everyone.

Please follow this code to ensure that you enjoy these natural areas and contribute towards their conservation for the future.

- Please do not empty your litter bins or toilet tank waste into the river – use facilities provided at Athlone Marina
- Protect against diesel or oil spillages
- Protect against large wakes while sailing through these areas
- Respect any regulations, policies and special concerns for the area that you visit
- Visit in small groups. Split larger parties into groups between four and six
- Remove all litter and leftover food including biodegradable waste
- Respect landowners and their property – close gates, avoid damaging walls and fences, do not disturb farm animals
- Conserve the present: leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them
- Observe wild animals from a distance. Do not follow or approach them
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviours and exposes them to predators and other danger
- Control pets at all times
- Avoid wild animals during sensitive times: mating, nesting and raising young
- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use, where possible
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises
- Concentrate use on existing trails if they exist. If they do not exist disperse use to prevent the creation of a trail
- Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy
- Guard against all risk of fire and please do not light fires
- Encourage other sailors also to take care of the environment

Report any pollution or other violation of environmental regulations to the authorities (044) 933 2000

For any further information, please contact Athlone Town Council at 090 644 2100 or visit www.athlone.ie